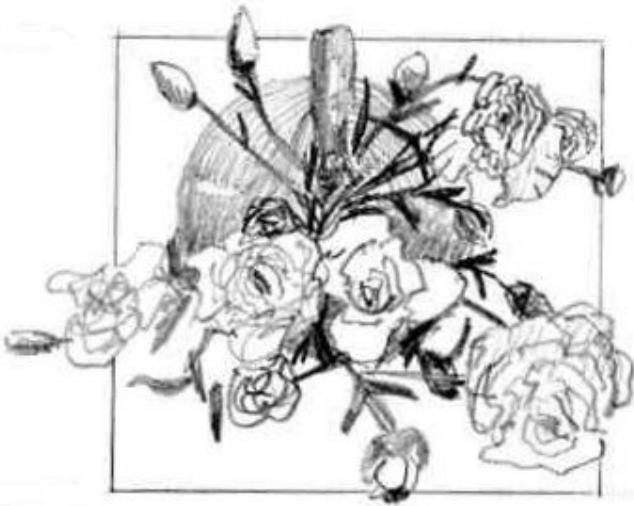


original viewpoints

There's an easy way to turn an average picture into a really interesting one, and that is to find an original viewpoint for it. Don't always look for the obvious viewpoint, but try now and again to choose something different. Have a look at these examples below to see what I mean.

The jug of flowers, below left, could have become a perfectly acceptable subject for a drawing or painting, and I could have sketched it from the 'normal' viewpoint – from the side. It would then have taken its place alongside every other picture of flowers in a vase. It may have been pretty, but it wouldn't have stood out as anything special.

But by changing the viewpoint and looking down on it from directly above, the whole composition has changed and become much more interesting. The viewer now has to work a bit harder at deciphering the picture, and the whole experience is therefore much more satisfying for both the viewer and the painter.



The same applies to the drawing of this bronze statue of a Chinese horse, again drawn from directly above. The horse itself is actually quite interesting when seen from the normal side view, but the top view was a real challenge to draw!



The two drawings below show again how a slightly different angle of view can bring life to a composition. Imagine seeing the men waiting at the train station as if you were standing next to them, and see how this composition taken from slightly above is much more interesting.

And don't reject your photos of clock towers, skyscrapers or steeples seen from below, simply because you couldn't get a front-on picture of the whole building. Images like this provide good material for paintings.

